

opening through which the silver members are easily installed in the housing.

5. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 1,
wherein the silver solution supply device is positioned above the detergent supply device,
and the outlet of the housing of the silver solution supply device is connected to the inside of the
detergent supply device.

6-8. (Cancelled)

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-5 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. (KR 10-2002-0012368) (hereinafter "Kim").

Claims 1-5

Amended claim 1 recites: "...a current speed reduction member positioned between an end of the silver member located at the outlet of the housing, which is connected to the detergent supply device, and the outlet of the housing, the current speed reduction member being in the form of a fixed baffle to slow the flow water through the housing." Support for this amendment may be found in at least Figure 3 of the present application.

The Office Action relies on Kim to show this feature of claim 1, and specifically relies on the opening created in the storage tank 31 when the valve 40 of Kim is opened.

Kim discusses a washing machine which contains a storage tank 31 connected to an inlet 35 connected to a water supplying valve. The storage tank 31 includes an outlet 37 directing water in the storage tank 31 toward a washing tub. A pair of silver rods 33, 34 is installed inside the storage tank 31 to make sterilizing water through electrolysis. An inflow valve 36 to isolate the inlet at the full level of water in the storage tank and a discharging valve 40 to supply the sterilizing water to the washing tub by opening and closing the outlet are also provided. By spraying the sterilizing water to the laundry, the laundry is sterilized. Kim, English Abstract.

It is well known in piping design that almost every valve, including the solenoid discharge valve 40 having a cut-off plate 43 of Kim, even when fully open will effect current flow, which appears to be what the Examiner is relying on to show the speed reduction member of claim 1. Accordingly, to clarify the current speed reduction feature of claim 1, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the current speed reduction member is in the form of a fixed baffle to slow the flow water through the housing. In its present form, it is respectfully submitted that the current speed reduction member in the form of a fixed baffle clearly distinguishes over the discharge valve configuration of Kim.